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Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, 9, 10, 19, 22, 23, 25, 28 and 30.

Please cancel claims 11-18, 20, 21, 31 and 32.

1. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one base unit and a plurality of handheld response units communicating with said at least one base unit over at least one wireless communication link;

said at least one base unit sending polling signals to said response units over said at least one wireless communication link;

said response units sending response data to said at least one base unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user; and

said at least one communication link comprising at least one base transceiver at said at least one base unit and a plurality of response transceivers, each at one of said response units, ~~said at least one base transceiver and said response transceivers communicating with said~~ polling signals and said slave unit responses being according to a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, wherein said at least one base unit adapted to synchronize said response units to respond to the polling signals, wherein said polling signals include at least one initial transmission and a master transmission, wherein said polling signals being on multiple different hop frequencies, wherein said at least one initial transmission containing information regarding the hop frequency of the master transmission and wherein said response units are adapted to receive the at least one initial transmission and to use the information contained in the received initial transmission in order to respond to the polling signal.

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2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, said base transceivers ~~being synchronized in order~~adapted to send polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 wherein said base transceivers transmitting ~~on a common channel~~hop frequencies.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, said plurality of base transceivers transmitting on separate ~~channel~~hop frequencies.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein said at least one base unit comprises a plurality of base units, each of said base transceivers at one of said base units.

6. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein said plurality of base units operate from a common frequency hop table.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 comprising at least one base microcomputer at said at least one base unit and a plurality of response microcomputers, each at one of said response units.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 including a frequency hop table at said at least one base unit.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8 wherein said response units communicating with said at least one base transceiver ~~using said protocol~~ without direct access to a said frequency hop table.

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10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9~~1~~ wherein said protocol comprising a home frequency, wherein ~~a transmission by said at least one base transceiver comprises an~~ said initial transmission ~~being~~ at said home frequency and said response transceivers attempt to receive said initial transmission at said home frequency.

11. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~18~~1 wherein said frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein said initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of said ~~base~~master transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.

20. – 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one master unit and a plurality of slave units communicating with said at least one master unit over at least one wireless communication link;

said at least one master unit sending polling signals to said slave units over said at least one wireless communication link;

said slave units sending data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals;

said at least one communication link comprising at least one master transceiver at said at least one base unit and a plurality of slave transceivers, each at one of said slave units;

said at least one master transceiver sending polling signals and said slave transceivers ~~communicating with~~sending data in response to the polling signals, said polling signals and said slave unit responses being according to a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, ~~said protocol comprising a home frequency, wherein said at least one master transceiver transmits an initial transmission at said home frequency and said slave transceivers attempt to receive said initial transmission at said home frequency~~wherein said at least one master unit being adapted to synchronize said slave units to respond to the polling signals, wherein said polling signals include at least one initial transmission and a master transmission, wherein

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said polling signals being on multiple different hop frequencies, wherein said at least one initial transmission containing information regarding the hop frequency of the master transmission and wherein said slave units are adapted to receive the at least one initial transmission and to use the information contained in the received initial transmission in order to respond to the polling signal.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, said base transceivers ~~being synchronized in order to~~ adapted to send polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein said base transceivers transmitting on a common channel.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, said plurality of base transceivers transmitting on separate ~~channels~~ hop frequencies.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein said at least one base unit comprises a plurality of base units, each of said base transceivers at one of said base units.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein each of said base units has a home frequency that is different than the home frequency of other base units.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~27~~26 wherein said plurality of base units operate from a common frequency hop table.

29. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said slave units comprise user response units and wherein said response units send response data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user.

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30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein ~~said at least one master transceiver transmits a master transmission at the hop frequency,~~ said master transmission transmitting data to said slave units.

31. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one master unit and a plurality of slave units communicating with said at least one master unit over at least one wireless communication link;

said at least one master unit sending polling signals to said slave units over said at least one wireless communication link;

said slave units sending data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals;

said at least one communication link comprising at least one master transceiver at said at least one master unit and a plurality of slave transceivers, each at one of said slave units;
and

said at least one master transceiver and said slave transceivers communicating with a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, said protocol comprising a home frequency, wherein said at least one master transceiver transmits an initial transmission at said home frequency and a master transmission at a hop frequency, said initial transmission at said home frequency transmitting a designation of the hop frequency to said slave units, said master transmission transmitting data to said slave units.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one base unit, said master transceivers being synchronized in order to send polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34 wherein said master transceivers transmitting on a common channel.

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36. (Original) The system of claim 35 wherein one of said plurality of master transceivers sends said initial transmission designating said hop frequency to said slave units, and wherein said plurality of master transceivers transmit at the hop frequency.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36 wherein said plurality of master transceivers alternate sending said initial transmission.

38. (Original) The system of claim 36 wherein said frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein said initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of said master transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.

39. (Original) The system of claim 35 wherein each of said plurality of master transceivers sends said initial transmission designating said hop frequency to said slave units and wherein said plurality of master transceivers transmit at said hop frequency.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein said frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein said initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of said master transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.

41. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one base unit, said plurality of master transceivers transmitting on separate channels.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41 wherein said at least one master unit comprises a plurality of master units, each of said master transceivers at one of said master units.

43. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein said slave units comprise user response units and wherein said response units send response data to said at least one master unit over said

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at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user.

44. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein said slave units sending data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link at one or more hop frequencies.